

Break-the-Ice with Great Group Games *for Women*

CANDY GAME (for groups of 3-10 – if your group is larger, break it down into smaller pods)

Fill a large bowl with multicolored candy (M&Ms, Skittles, etc). Ask each woman to take a handful of candy and hold it on a napkin in her lap without eating any yet.

After everyone has their candy, explain the rules of the game. One at a time, each participant should tell something about herself depending on the amount and color of candies in her hand, as follows (*be creative and make up your own*) – *and then she may eat them*.

Red = tell 1 fact about your early childhood per red candy

Blue = tell 1 fact about your present job per blue candy

Yellow = tell 1 dream or aspiration per yellow candy

Brown = tell 1 interesting detail about your last vacation per brown candy

Orange = tell 1 random fact per orange candy

NAME GAME (you should probably limit groups to about 10-12)

In this game, everyone sits in a circle and one person goes first. If her name is Tina, she says "Hi, my name is Tiny Tina" or whatever word she wants to use that starts with the same letter as her initial. The second person then says, "Hi, Tiny Tina, my name is Giddy Gladys", the next person would say "Hi Tiny Tina and Giddy Gladys, my name is Picky Penelope".... The game keeps going until everyone has said their name. If you have a large group, it could get quite tricky to remember everyone's name.

FROZEN T-SHIRT GAME (3-8 per team)

Ahead of time, fold a T-shirt and place it in gallon zip freezer baggie. Fill the bag with a cup or so of water—enough to soak the T-shirt—and zip it shut. Figure out how many teams you will have and make a bag for each group. Put all baggies in the freezer until frozen solid.

At the event, divide your group into teams and give each team a frozen T-shirt baggie. The first team to put the T-shirt on one of their member's body wins. They can use any method they like to thaw the T-shirt. (Options for thawing can include breaking the ice, using a hair dryer or microwave, or running the shirt under hot water—but let them come up with the method!)

POP THE BALLOON GAME

Tie a 3 foot long yarn to one balloon per person. The other end of the yarn should be tied to someone's ankle. The goal of the game is to pop everyone's balloon without yours being popped. The last one with a balloon on their ankle wins. Be careful, this is not a good game to be played around fragile items or items that could be knocked over since it gets rowdy. Make sure to tell boundaries before starting the game.

PURSE SCAVENGER HUNT (Individual or Teams)

As the game coordinator calls out items, whoever finds the item in her purse and holds it up first wins a point for herself or her team. Have someone other than the coordinator keep score.

Suggested items:

Coin from the 1990's	Ruler or Measuring Tape	Baby's Pacifier or Paraphernalia
Button	Already chewed Gum	Dental Floss or Toothpick
Bobby Pin	Movie Stub	Restaurant Receipt
Golf or Mechanical Pencil	Rubber Ban	Paper Clip
Pin	Deodorant	Sudoku
Exactly 37 cents	Novel	Utensil
Ruler or Measuring Tape	Baby Pacifier	Lint

GUESS MY NAME GAME (any number of people)

Write one name on a sticker nametag per person playing the game.

If you are on a church retreat, you can write the name of people in the Bible. If you already know each other and are on a work retreat, you can use actual names of people in the group. You can even use the names of animals, candy, or anything else.

The sticker name tags will be put on everyone's back without them reading the stickers. The purpose of the game is to figure out what name you have on your back. You can ask someone ONE question about the name on your back that can be answered with a yes or no. Once you have asked that person a question, they can ask you ONE question, then you must find someone else to ask. The game ends when everyone has figured out their names. If a few people are left and are having difficulty, they can be given hints. There are no prizes in this game, it is just for fun.

You can use this same idea with pairs (famous couples, lines of a song, etc.) – everyone is encouraged to find the other half of her pair.

GETTING-TO-KNOW-YOU BINGO (any number of people)

This game involves making a bingo sheet with different phrases in each square. For example, you can write "has skied in Colorado" or "colors her hair" or "is a twin". Everyone is given a bingo board and has to find someone else to write their initials in 1 or 2 squares if they have done something in that square (no more than 2 per person). You can't fill in a square yourself. The winner is whoever gets all her spaces filled with names. When a sheet is complete, the participant yells "Bingo" and then must tell who signed each square (optional).

**See sample sheet next page*

GETTING TO KNOW YOU!

Find someone who fits a category and ask her to sign that box. Be the first to fill all your boxes! Make sure each box has a different name. Get to know people! Have fun!

Has ridden a horse	Has green eyes	Is an only child	Has a hobby (what?)	Has 3 or more kids
Has skied in Colorado	Has 3 or more pets (what?)	Enjoys gardening	Is a member of AARP	Likes Brussel Sprouts
Played a team sport in HS or college (which sport?)	Has more than 3 grandchildren	Has been outside the Continental US (where?)	Can recite a Bible verse from memory (make them do it!)	Has at least one grandparent still living
Is under 5 feet (height)	Is on Facebook	Went out to dinner within the last week (where?)	Is wearing something blue	Has visited at least 20 of the United States
Wears contacts	Was born outside of PA	Plays a musical instrument (what?)	Hates games	Weights the same or less than in High School